



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Solid Waste Division

January 2003

# Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter

## Teacher Opportunities

### Incorporate the Environment into Your Curriculum

*I very much enjoyed the workshop and gained ideas for incorporating the lessons into an already established curriculum.*

Looking for real life examples that engage students? Searching for lessons that demonstrate the scientific method and other Essential Learnings? Join us for a hands-on workshop that is designed by teachers for teachers! King County Solid Waste Division is

sponsoring free teacher workshops on Household Hazardous Waste for teachers of grades 4-12 from 8AM to 12PM on February 8, 2003 at Seattle University and on March 15, 2003 in Issaquah. The workshop provides information about safer alternatives to hazardous household products and ways to teach students to improve their health and safety. Participants receive ready-to-use lesson plans that are easy to integrate into existing curricula.

*It was immediately useful! I received so many great ideas that I could implement in my classes the next day.*

The workshop also includes:

- Stipend for certified King County teachers on completion of workshop objectives
- Free curriculum materials
- Time to practice lessons and activities
- Opportunities for free follow-up classroom support

For information or to register, contact Darcie Garland-Renn at (206) 583-0655 or [dgarlandrenn@triangleassociates.com](mailto:dgarlandrenn@triangleassociates.com).



### Healthy Children, Healthy Planet: Educating and Empowering

The focus of the Environmental Education Association of Washington's annual conference this year is Healthy Children, Healthy Planet: Educating and Empowering, a discussion about our responsibility to protect the health of children through education. The conference will feature three topic areas: toxicology, environmental justice, and creating wise consumers. Participants will share successes and challenges involved in educating students about potential risks, empowering them to make changes in their environment,

and equipping them to be wise consumers of information and products. The conference will be in Bellingham, WA on March 13-15, 2003. Registration information is available at [www.eeaw.org](http://www.eeaw.org).

### Earth Day Network Provides Resources and Lessons for Teachers



Looking for classroom ideas on a variety of environmental topics? The Earth Day Network, the organization that sponsors activities around the globe to observe Earth Day, provides a variety of lessons on biodiversity, forests, energy, and water. The focus for the coming year is on water, since the United Nations Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights declared formally for the first time that safe and secure drinking water is a human right. To receive updates about participating in Earth Day this year or to download lessons, visit [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net). Information on participating in a global effort to monitor water quality, including background, a teacher's guide, monitoring instructions and equipment are available.

## Protect Your Family from the Hazards of Mercury!

During February 1-28, 2003 receive a FREE digital thermometer when you drop off your mercury fever thermometer at Briggs Pharmacy, Katterman's Sandpoint Pharmacy, Manhattan Drug, Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Sand Point Clinic Pharmacy, View Ridge Pharmacy, Westside Pharmacy, or any



Bartell Drugs store in King County, while supplies last. Mercury fever thermometers should be put in a rigid plastic container (the original case or a toothbrush container) or put them in two heavy plastic bags with zip locks. For more information please call the Hazards Line at 206-296-4692 or visit [www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste](http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste).

## FREE King County Presentations

### Don't miss out! The Habitat Express can make a stop at your school this winter.

This fun and educational assembly for King County elementary schools still has limited spaces left for January, February, and the first week of March.

#### Here's what teachers told us this fall...

*The assembly was fantastic!... It was excellent- funny AND engaging...The actors were great. They really kept the kids attention while getting their points across. Thank you!!... Great kickoff to our classroom recycling program...Great job of working with the group and keeping them engaged!...Very worthwhile, thank you!*

The King County Solid Waste Division's FREE live assembly show for grades K-6 (both primary and intermediate versions are available) is a fast-paced adventure from start to finish. Presenters will take your students through a captivating series of situations that

teach them how the choices we make have an effect on habitat and natural resources. Your students will have FUN while learning how reducing waste at school and at home contributes to a better, cleaner planet. In addition to the assembly, your

school gets up to three free, hands-on classroom workshops to engage your students and ignite their ideas about the environment. To schedule your school for this winter OR to get a jump-start on next year, call Darcie at (206) 583-0655. We are also now accepting sign-ups for the 2003-2004 school year. Elementary schools outside Seattle with 100 or more students are eligible.

### Attention: King County Kindergarten Teachers

Openings are still available to King County kindergartens outside Seattle for the popular storytelling program, Adventures with Zeela. Professional storyteller Kathie Vitz presents the story, then leads students in a dramatization about it, which involves a visitor from another planet who has come to Earth to find out how humans solve the problem of too much waste. To schedule a program, contact Kathie Vitz at (206) 789-0754 or [kbvitz@yahoo.com](mailto:kbvitz@yahoo.com).

### Secondary Students Transform Their Learning into Action

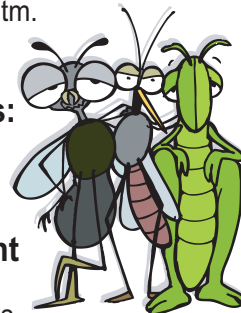
Students from middle and high schools turn words into action as part of King County Solid Waste Division's Secondary School Program. Mia Arends' class from BEST High School, after participating in the Life Beneath Your Feet workshop, stenciled storm drains around the school's parking lot.

The message on the stencil reminds people not to put anything down the drain to avoid polluting our lakes, streams and sound. Students from the after school YMCA program Hangtime at Kellogg Middle School stenciled storm drains around their campus. They also posted flyers on classroom doors describing the importance of the stenciling. If your class is interested in conducting a project or receiving a presentation on biodiversity, the relationship between healthy soil and salmon, or becoming wise consumers, contact Nanda at (206) 343-9759, ext. 116.

For details about King County Solid Waste Division programs, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>.

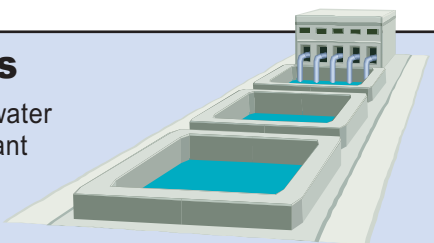
### Slugs, Bugs, and Dirty Toilets: How Hazardous Waste Hits Home, Health and Environment

Schedule a free, household hazardous waste classroom presentation from King County for students in grades 4-12. If your students are studying health or the environment, raising salmon in the classroom, or exploring chemical reactions, or if you are already connecting science with social issues, or would like to do more of this, consider this highly interactive, one-hour presentation. Highlights include handling over 60 real household products and finding the hazardous ones, shuffling environment photo cards to trace the route of hazardous products from the home into water supplies, and testing a safe cleaning product. Teachers receive a follow-up packet and a Green Approach to Cleaning Kit with activity guide. Students receive handouts including experiment cards that show how to make safe cleaners. To schedule, contact Gail Gensler at (206) 263-3082 or [gail.gensler@metrokc.gov](mailto:gail.gensler@metrokc.gov). Find details about the program at <http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers>.



### Treatment Plant Tours

Tour one of King County's regional wastewater treatment plants - the South Treatment Plant in Renton or the West Point Plant next to Seattle's Discovery Park. Learn about the treatment process, water reuse, and how we protect public health and the environment by treating wastewater. Tours are available for schools and community, civic, environmental and professional groups. For school groups (fifth grade through high school), at least two adults per 15 students must accompany tour groups and are expected to aid the tour guides. To request a tour, contact Bernadette Donald at [bernadette.donald@metrokc.gov](mailto:bernadette.donald@metrokc.gov) or at 206-296-8286.



## Recognition for Environmental Efforts at School

### Is Someone at Your School an Earth Hero?

### Coming Soon- King County Earth Heroes at Schools 2003!



In the coming months, King County Executive Ron Sims will once again be inviting King County residents to help

him identify those who are doing exceptional work on behalf of the environment in our local schools. They may be teachers, students, staff/volunteers, or programs/schools.

Last year, Executive Sims recognized 19 outstanding teachers, students, staff, programs and schools doing wonderful work to protect the environment. They were nominated by colleagues and classmates who wanted to honor their on-going commitment to preserving the natural environment through educational efforts. The Earth Heroes at School Program is part of a countywide Earth Legacy Initiative,



which consists of a number of programs that protect and enhance King County's environment.



Nomination forms will be available in February 2003 and will be due March 21, 2003. Winners will be honored at an event in May. For more information, contact Linda Howard at (206) 296-4432.

### State Recycling Association Looking for Outstanding Recycling Programs

The Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) is seeking nominations for outstanding recycling professionals, innovative government administrators and everyday folks making a measurable difference to

improve the economic vitality and environmental wellbeing statewide. Recycler of the Year awards are given in the following categories: Individual, Business Primary, Business Generator, Public Agency, and Institution. Awards are also given for Most Innovative Program and Outstanding Public Education Program. Awards will be presented at the WSRA Annual Banquet on May 6th, 2003 in Spokane. Detailed criteria for award categories and nomination forms are available on the WSRA website, <http://www.wsra.net> or by calling the WSRA offices (206) 244-0311. Nominations are due by March 15, 2003.

### Terry Husseman Outstanding Sustainable Schools Awards Program

The Washington State Department of Ecology has redesigned its waste

reduction and recycling awards program to reflect its vision of supporting schools to teach and practice environmentally sustainable behavior. Growing or purchasing organic food, offering vegetarian options, purchasing in bulk with minimal or no packaging, using renewable energy, and choosing the least toxic means of effective pest and weed control are just a few of the practices that schools can implement to become more sustainable. A manual *How to Make Sustainability Happen in Your School* and the awards application will be available from Ecology in January. For more information on the awards program, criteria or ideas to foster sustainability in your school, contact Awards Coordinator, Michelle Payne at [mdav461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mdav461@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 407-6129.

### Collect Cans and Raise Funds

Looking for a way to raise funds for a classroom project, field trip or other activity? Have your students collect 5-oz. and 6-oz. cans from home. Cat food, pineapple and tuna are some of the things that come in cans of these sizes. Make sure they're clean and rinsed. When you've collected a bundle, contact Nicky McKinney who will pick them up and pay five cents for each can. The cans are used to hold hand-poured soy wax candles. Contact Nicky at 206-293-3091 or [nickyforhair@aol.com](mailto:nickyforhair@aol.com) for information about fundraisers at your school.

## Schools Making a Difference

### High School Students Take a Look at Stuff

Students at Foster High School are reading the book *Stuff: the Secret Lives of Everyday Things* and contributing to an environmental video about the life cycle of an everyday object. They will also produce short Public Service Announcements related to messages

they learned in their reading. The goal of the project is to provide students in three Communication classes an overview of the video production process and how to use media to promote an environmental message. The video will be shared with other classes throughout the County. The project, under the direction of the 911



*Continued  
on back page*





## ***Schools Making a Difference continued from inside***

Media Arts Center, is funded by a grant from the King County Solid Waste Division and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

### **Crestwood and Bellevue High Pilot Green Schools Program**

Crestwood Elementary School in Kent and Bellevue High School are participating in King County's new Green School Program. The County is piloting this program to help schools improve or expand their conservation practices. The goal is to help participants become better stewards of the environment and models for their students and the community. Schools work on improvements in at least four of eight categories. Waste reduction and recycling, hazardous materials management and reduction, and water and energy conservation

are a few examples. The County will provide technical assistance and recognition.

Crestwood Elementary, spear-headed by its environmental club Defenders of the Planet, will improve its recycling program by recycling milk cartons and plastic lunch trays, and by adding recycling containers where needed. Members of the club will make presentations to all classrooms about the *why*, *what* and *where* of the school's recycling program. In addition, food waste composting is being explored. The school will work on energy conservation by training student monitors to ensure that lights are out and computers turned off at the end of the day. Crestwood will also track the water conserved through the installation of low flow urinals and toilets.

A high priority for the Earthbound Club at Bellevue High School is the reduction of litter through increased recycling of PET plastic bottles in common areas and classrooms. King County is working with the school to identify the cause(s) of an unexplained jump in school water use, discovered when King County analyzed the school's water use over the past year. Also in the plans are energy conservation and environmental purchasing, including a student-initiated inventory of existing green purchasing practices.

The County is also meeting with Tolt Middle School about participating in the program and the school is in the process of identifying possible goals and strategies. For more information, contact Dale Alekel at (206) 296-8457 or [dale.alekel@metrokc.gov](mailto:dale.alekel@metrokc.gov).

**For more details on these and other programs,  
visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>**



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King Street Center, Suite 701  
201 S. Jackson St.  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

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**When you are done  
with this issue,  
pass it on to  
someone else who  
may be interested.**

